



# Helping Create Cyber-savvy Kids

Computers and Internet use are now part of the primary tools used by kids, not only for classroom research and study, but for recreational use as well. In this day and age everyone knows students can explore the marvels of the world and travel to the most intelligent realms of our galaxy on the Internet. But how many realize that if students are not aware of online dangers, they can become entrapped in the darkest most detestable realms of the human imagination by predators lurking online? Educators and parents are now recognizing that awareness and true safety online is not found in software filters that try to protect children only during the school day - it is found in education and community support that helps students develop the necessary safety skills whenever they are online.



[www.netsmartz.org/education/wa](http://www.netsmartz.org/education/wa)  
[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)



[www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)

Both programs are supported by  
the Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention,  
U.S. Department of Justice.

Our goal is to help educate teachers and students on how to avoid dangerous, inappropriate, or unlawful online behavior. "There is a very real need to offer teachers, parents and children the tools they need to help keep kids safer on the Internet," said Asst. U.S. Attorney Stephanie Lister. "We must encourage kids to beware of interacting online with people they don't know. We can help prevent kids from becoming victims by teaching them to be cyber-savvy." According to a study of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), approximately 1 in 5 children online received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet and 1 in 33 received an aggressive sexual solicitation that included an invitation to meet in person.

ESD 101's Ed Tech Support Center and the U.S. Attorney's Office for Eastern Washington are partnering to bring programs and resources to schools in our region and across the state. There are several resources available to assist educators in keeping students safer by teaching them about Internet dangers and promoting safety guidelines. Two primary programs are **NetSmartz** and **i-SAFE America**.

- The *NetSmartz Workshop* is a free, online resource created by NCMEC that combines the newest technologies available and the most current information to create high-impact, age-appropriate activities, videos and challenges for grades K-12. *NetSmartz* has created a website for educators and parents in Washington state, which provides access to these materials (see sidebar).
- The *i-SAFE America* program is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to make their Internet experiences safe and responsible. *i-SAFE* accomplishes this through a prevention-oriented, Internet safety education program for kids in grades K-12, which includes free professional development for educators, K-12 curriculum, and leadership opportunities for students.

Both programs cover online safety related to meeting online acquaintances in person, providing personal information online, cyber bullying, predator identification and intellectual property issues among others. The *NetSmartz* and *i-SAFE* resources can be combined to meet the specific needs of a district. For example, some of the online, interactive activities from *NetSmartz* can be used in conjunction with the *i-SAFE* curriculum for a richer learning experience. Also included are community outreach programs to parents, law enforcement, and community leaders through newsletters and presentations.

## **Need more information?**

Visit our *Cyber Safety* Web site at <http://www.esd101.net/edtech/cybersafety/> for links to the above programs and additional Internet safety resources and materials. We'll also post information on regional presentations and available training sessions as they're scheduled.

For more information  
on these programs, contact:



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